

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 07060 171115 Z

14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

ACDA-19 IO-12 GAC-01 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /126 W

----- 088469

R 171108 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5095

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: SCHROEDER'S CHANCES DECLINE

1. THE CDU/ CSU BUNDESTAG FRAKTION HAS DECIDED TO SELECT ITS NEW FLOOR LEADER ON MAY 17 RATHER THAN MAY 18 AS FIRST AGREED UPON. THEREFORE MAY 16 WAS ONE OF HECTIC MANEUVERING WITH AN UNEXPECTEDLY LARGE SHOW OF OPPOSITION TO SCHROEDER WHO HAD THAT MORNING INFORMED EACH CDU/ CSU DEPUTY BY LETTER THAT HE IS AVAILABLE FOR THE JOB, A LETTER MANY DEPUTIES FEEL SHOULD BETTER NOT HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT OF DAY.

2. THE HOSTILITY TO SCHROEDER IS IN PART A REACTION TO LONG YEARS OF SCHROEDER'S CONDESCENSION AND ALOOFNESS AND TO THE FEELING THAT HIS STAMINA IS NOT UP TO THE DAILY GRIND OF TRENCH WAREFARE IN THE BUNDESTAG, BUT IT IS ALSO A REACTION TO THE HEAVY- HANDED EFFORTS BEING MADE BY FRAKTION CONSERVATIVES LED BY STRAUSS TO INSURE SCHROEDER'S ELECTION.

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PAGE 02 BONN 07060 171115 Z

3. ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE OPPOSITION TO SCHROEDER IS BADEN WUERTTEMBERG, THIRTY- ONE OF WHOSE CDU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES ( OF A TOTAL OF 72) MET ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE SIXTEENTH AND IN A SECRET TEST BALLOT GAGE TWO TO SCHROEDER, SIX TO VON WEIZSAECKER, AND TWENTY- THREE TO CARSTENS. CARSTENS, A FRESHMAN DEPUTY, THOUGH AT FIFTY- NINE HE IS ONLY FOUR YEARS YOUNGER THAN SCHROEDER, IS REMEMBERED WITH RESPECT FOR HIS PERFORMANCE AS STATE SECRETARY IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND CHIEF OF CHANCELLERY, AND HIS MAIDEN SPEECH IN THE BUNDESTAG EARLIER THIS YEAR WAS AN OUTSTANDING ONE. FURTHERMORE, HE HASN' T HAD TIME TO MAKE ANY ENEMIES. HOWEVER, HE IS INEXPERIENCED IN THE BUSINESS OF THE BUNDESTAG, AND IT IS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT HIS SUDDEN POPULARITY IS AS SERIOUS AS IT LOOKS NOR THAT IT WILL LAST THE TWENTY- FOUR HOURS LEFT UNTIL BALLOT TIME.  
HILLENBRAND

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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